THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of a Steel Plant by MMTC

485. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MMTC propose to set up a steel plant at Duburi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been approved by his Ministry;

(d) if so, the total land acquired for the purpose;

(e) the time by which the said plant is likely to be commissioned; and

(f) the progress as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (f) Government has approved MMTC's equity participation in setting up an Integrated Iron & Steel Plant, i.e. Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) at Kalinganagar, Jaipur District, Orissa for production of 1.1 million tonnes steel wire rods, steel billets and pig iron per annum with the other promoters, i.e., Government of Orissa, MECON and some foreign investors. The total land of 2050 acres required for the Project has been acquired. The estimated Project cost is Rs. 1,510/- crores. The Project is scheduled to be operational by 2000 A.D.

The Blast furnace has been imported and transported to the site and financial institutions have appraised and accepted to fund the Project. All statutory clearances have been obtained.

Loan Extended as Compared to Deposit in Orissa

486. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan, category-wise, extended by various Banks in Orissa during each of the last two years; and

(b) the percentage of total loan extended in comparison to the total deposits made in these banks during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The amount of bank credit given in Orissa under Annual Credit Plan during the last two years to different sectors, as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below:

(Rs. In crore)

Sector	1994-95	1995-96
1. Agriculture & Allied Activities	273.99	392.53
2. Small Scale Industries	84.15	119.57
3. Services	136.94	253.24
Total	495.08	765.34

(b) The credit deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks in Orissa as at the end of March 1995 and March 1996, as reported by RBI, was 54.1 per cent and 54.8 per cent respectively.

Complaints Against State Bank of India Mumbai

487. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from the Members of Parliament by the State Bank of India, Central Office, Mumbai during the last three years complaining that higher authorities of the Associate Banks of the State Bank of India are shielding some guilty employees/union leaders of the Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; bank-wise;

(c) whether any impartial enquiry of these letters has been conducted by the Central Office, Mumbai;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the directions which are likely to be issued to the concerning Banks regarding action against guilty employees/union leaders to avoid inordinate delay in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Purchase of Power Support Machinee

488. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power support machines procured for Munidih project of B.C.C.L during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent of their procurement during the above period;

(c) whether power support machines were also procured from Poland; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and the thickness of coal which these machines would be able to cut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No powered support machines were procured by Coal India Limited for the Moonidih project of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Salboni Currency Note Printing Press

489. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Salboni Currency Note Printing Press has started printing the currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its capacity;

(c) whether there is any idle capacity; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Phase I, one line of Machines have been commissioned with effect from 11-12-96. Till June, 1997, it has produced about 320 million pieces of Rs. 10 denomination notes. The Press has also started a second shift from July 1, 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Opium Rates

490. *DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the Government have received any demand from the opium growers for hike in the prices of the opium produced under the licensed areas; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations for hike in opium price are received by the Government every year.

(b) Based on such representations, periodical review and revision of the existing opium prices are conducted by the Government. The latest review was conducted during the crop year 1996-97 when the Govt. announced an increase of Rs. 100/- per kg. in the existing opium price slabs.

Bank Branches in Assam

491. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank branches opened in Assam alongwith their locations by Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Corporation Bank since those guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the Bank Employees Committee of Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad is agitating over non-expansion of banking network in Assam, thereby defeating the very idea with which banks were nationalised; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House of the extent available.

[Translation]

Indo-Dutch Project

492. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has raised objection on the Indo-Dutch Project of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh even after its clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if so, the details of the objections raised and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project agreement will be signed shortly.

[English]

Production of Coal

493. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coal mines in Maharashtra alongwith production of coal during the each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of coal exported from the State during the last three years and the names of the countries to whom it was exported;

(c) whether the Government propose to export coal in future also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total number of working coal mines under Coal India Limited (CIL) in Maharashtra and the production from them during the last three years is as under:-